

# Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission Presents Conservation Award** *Tennessee Tech professor receives recognition*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 10, 2010)** – The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) has recognized Dr. James D. Layzer, a professor at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tenn., with its 2010 Biological Diversity Protection Award.

Dr. Layzer is being recognized for 30 years of work in freshwater ecology. His pioneering research has focused on the status and distribution of freshwater mussels across various parts of central and southern Kentucky, examining the effects of managed stream flows, particularly related to impounded rivers. He has also worked for many years on captive propagation of rare and threatened freshwater mussels.

Dr. Layzer has authored or co-authored 56 papers or book chapters on fishes and mussels as well as mentoring more than 50 graduate students, many of whom have gone on to make important natural history and ecology contributions. His recent work has involved freshwater mussels in the Green River, which flows through Mammoth Cave National Park.

The Biological Diversity Protection Award recognizes a person, persons or organization that has made a significant contribution to the discovery and protection of Kentucky's biological diversity. Freshwater mussels are the most threatened group of animals in North America.

To learn more about the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission visit the website at <http://naturepreserves.ky.gov>.

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